

REMARKS

This is a Preliminary Amendment to the above-identified patent application. By this Preliminary Amendment, claims 1-7 have been amended to remove multiple dependencies and/or reference numerals.

The specification has been amended to reference the parent application, U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/034,481, filed March 4, 1998, which claims priority from German Application No. DE 197 09 992.0, filed March 11, 1997.

Entry of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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